

University of Guam
Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars
CONUS Emeritus Status Report
June 2024

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Background Information

There are ninety-seven (97) Members of the SEPRS. Currently fifty-nine (59) Members of the SEPRS are living and thirty-eight (38) Members are known to be deceased. Of the fifty-nine (59) living, there are twenty-one (21) Members located in the contiguous (CONUS) United States, seven (7) in Hawaii, one (1) in the Philippines, and thirty (30) in Guam.

Recently, UOG SEPRS President Dr. Hiro Kurashina appointed two volunteer coordinators; one to connect with SEPRS Members who are CONUS, and one to connect with SEPRS Members who are located OCONUS. The Coordinators were charged with getting in contact with SEPRS Members living CONUS and OCONUS respectively and reporting back to the Society with updated information regarding Members of the University of Guam Society for Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars.

Strategy for Contacting CONUS SEPRS Members

As SEPRS CONUS Coordinator, I developed a strategic plan for reaching Members who are CONUS. Working with contact information provided by SEPRS Secretary Dr. Kathy Wood, I generated a list of CONUS Members. As a first step in the process of contacting CONUS Members, I determined who was active and who was inactive, and which Members were located CONUS. Over a series of weeks, I provided Secretary Wood with updates on email addresses, phone numbers, mailing addresses and status as I began contacting Members who had been inactive. She followed up with several Members to ascertain residence, and updated the directory to include the newest Member. The newest Member resides in the Philippines. Secretary Wood and I worked to clean up the roster by adding in missing information, updating dates, and correcting contact information.

As the majority of SEPRS CONUS Members are and continue to be active in SEPRS, I prioritized the contacting of Members who have been “inactive” in the past two years. Inactive was defined as any Member who has not submitted the required annual report for 2023 nor a Legacy Report in 2022. This list of inactive Members yielded just 7 Member names. It was of note that the other 14 CONUS Members have been active at some time during the past two years, and Secretary Kathy Wood has good contact information and email information for each of these Members on file with SEPRS. Of the seven “inactive” Members, I was able to talk with or communicate via email with four who then were updated as “active” given contact with SEPRS CONUS Coordinator.

These now “active” Members also provided updated information which was shared with Secretary Wood. Three will consider preparing a Legacy Report. One is currently working full time doing research at a major research center CONUS; one is living CONUS but doing part time contractual research work with UOG; one is engaged in full time caregiving for a loved one, and the last is tending to personal health challenges. All four have working email addresses, and mailing addresses and phone numbers were reconfirmed. Updates to contact information were provided to Secretary Kathy Wood for SEPRS files.

For the one inactive Member from whom I received due to dated contact information, it is noted that he has not been in contact with SEPRS for many years. His emails bounce, and phone numbers are disconnected. He would be about 96 years old, and retired many decades ago; and joined the SEPRS in 1999.

Updates on the final two inactive Members are as follows: one joined SEPRS in 2008; and one joined just three years ago in 2021. Both are now about 74 years old. Secretary Kathy Wood has received communication that both are quite ill. Secretary Wood was provided contact information for the daughter of one Member; however, email and phone calls are not returned whether sent by SEPRS Secretary or SEPRS CONUS Coordinator. The other Member’s wife has been in recent contact with Secretary Wood and has communicated that the Member is not in good health. This was also shared with me by yet another Member who recently visited with him in Arizona. As the SEPRS Secretary has been in recent contact with this Member’s wife, it was not necessary for me to contact him.

Clearly these last two “inactive” Members who are in poor health, were unable to submit annual reports or provide Legacy Papers. Sadly, they will continue to be unable to participate as active Members.

Demographics of CONUS SEPRS Members

Once all “inactive” Members were contacted or attempted to be contacted, I reviewed data and revised the inactive list to adjust for the newly contacted Members who had not been active over the past several years but whom I was able to contact. I calculated the overall percent and number of CONUS Members who are active. I analyzed the distribution of CONUS Members across States; across decade when they joined SEPRS; by years that all CONUS SEPRS Members joined; by State where CONUS Members reside; by age as defined by decades (60’s-90’s); and by number and percent of CONUS Members who submitted Legacy Papers.

In conclusion, CONUS SEPRS Members are largely in their 70’s and 80’s with the largest number in their 70’s. Two are in their 90’s and two who are in their 60’s. Three of the 21 CONUS Members are female and 18 are male. CONUS Members of SEPRS live in eleven states with the largest number, (4), living in Arizona.

While we have CONUS SEPRS Members who joined in every decade since the 80’s, there are clusters in the 1990’s and the 2020’s. It is encouraging to note increases in numbers of individuals applying for membership in SEPRS since 2020.

The vast majority of CONUS SEPRS Members, 81%, remain active by submitting annual reports, and most contributed Legacy Papers while three continue to work on and plan to submit their Legacy Papers.

From a review of minutes, conversations, and emails that I have received, it is clear that few CONUS Members are able to participate in SEPRS meetings given the timing of meetings not corresponding to appropriate times CONUS. Some are occupied with caregiving while others have slowed down considerably due to the aging process. Two are very ill this making participation with SEPRS impossible.

We have good contact information for all but one Member. All updates have been provided to SEPRS Secretary Dr. Wood.

By the Numbers: UOG SEPRS "CONUS" Members

Number of CONUS University of Guam SEPRS Members: 21

Number and Percent of CONUS SEPRS Members considered "active" as of 6/2024:

18/21 or 86%

Note, "Active" as defined by submission of 2023 Annual Report, Legacy Report, or having been in communication with CONUS Coordinator in 2024. "Inactives" include two who are ill, and one who is unable to be located.

CONUS States Represented: 11

Distribution of CONUS Members by State:

Arizona (4), California (3), Washington (3), Oregon (2), Texas (2), Maryland (2)
West Virginia (1), Virginia (1), Georgia (1), Indiana (1), Minnesota (1)

Age Range of CONUS Emeritus Members: 96 - 64:

CONUS Emeritus Member Age by Decade: 90's (2), 80's (7), 70's (10), 60's (2)

Year Joined Emeritus Society by decade for CONUS Members:

1980's (1), 1990's (7), 2000's (5), 2010's(2), 2020-present (6)

It a delight to report that we have active Members who have been part of the SEPRS for decades. The longest serving CONUS SEPRS Member has been active for 36 years and many have been Members of SEPRS for as many years as they served at UOG as faculty, administrators or scholars. Six new CONUS SEPRS Members have joined since 2020.

Number and Percent of CONUS Members Submitting Legacy Papers:

11/20 or 55% of CONUS Members submitted at the time of UOG 70th Anniversary (note one Member joined after the 70th Anniversary)

Within the next year, there are likely to be submissions of three additional Legacy Reports bringing the total submitted by CONUS SEPRS Members to 14/21 or 67%

After five years of living CONUS as an SEPRS Emerita Director and Full Professor, I offer a list of recommendations for consideration as your SEPRS CONUS Coordinator.

Recommendations

- 1). That the SEPRS President annually communicate to all Members via snail mail (some no longer utilize email) as well as email encouraging participation and input;
- 2). That Members be congratulated by the SEPRS upon reaching each decade anniversary of becoming a Member of the SEPRS;
- 3). That Members be encouraged to consider leaving a trust or gift to the UOG Foundation Emeritus Society Scholarship Fund;
- 4). That SEPRS Members who have not yet submitted Legacy Reports be encouraged to do so (note, CONUS Members who have not yet submitted have already been encouraged);
- 5). That a similar report for SEPRS OCONUS Members (Guam, PI and Hawaii) be completed. Thereafter, SEPRS officers would be able to compile data from this CONUS report an OCONUS report into an overall report on the status of UOG SEPRS Membership;
- 6). That SEPRS Members be asked to provide a family contact (name, email and phone number) for SEPRS leadership for use when a Member is unable to be contacted; and
- 7). That SEPRS President, or SEPRS Member/Member of the GGRF Board inquire about Members who have been out of contact. This data is publicly available in online minutes of the GGRF Membership Committee (annuitant's survivor, etc) however; earlier years are not posted and available electronically online.

